

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

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## ***Family names appearing in this issue:***

Akett 19	Clarkson 16	Fish 14	Longland 27	Saltmarsh 15
Appleton 22	Collier 17	Franklin 16	Lovett 13	Savory 19
Baker 17	Cook 17	Giles 8	Lyford 20	Simpson 22
Beauchamp 13	Crip(p)s 19	Gurney 17	Major 14	Skeffington 25
Bennett 17	Crouchman 19	Heath 17	Mathews 17	Smith 16
Bennett 19	Day 17	Herbert 12	Mouldy 19	Stanbrook 16
Breadmore 8	Dobson 17	Jarvis 14	Newman 15	Stockwell 17
Bryan 8	Donaldson 25	Jenkins 16	Nott 13	Sturgess 16
Burgess 17	Eagles 19	Johnstone 16	Page 16	Taylor 17
Car 17	Edwards 8, 17	Kaile 26	Park 17	Wilkins 17
Chapel 14	Englefield 22	King 8	Price 13	Wilton 22
Church 17	Everett 17	Kingham 20	Rogers 16	

# Chairman's corner



## Changing times for family historians

Family history is unlikely to escape the consequences of troubled economic times and significant cutbacks in public expenditure. You have already seen increases (though the first since 2003) in fees for copy certificates, and changes, charges and cutbacks at The National Archives. Elsewhere, expect record offices and libraries to tweak charges upwards as opening hours and staff numbers reduce. Somewhere in all of this are real opportunities (even if they look to be masquerading as problems) for family history societies.

Has there been a better time for societies to become more inclusive and to publicise the benefits that they provide for all? Every member will have plenty of chances to explain to others how this society can help good researchers to become even better (and more cost effective). Between us, how many of those opportunities can we realise?

## Annual general meeting at Newbury

Are you coming to St Mary's Church Hall on 23 June for the society's AGM? The Executive Committee looks forward to meeting you that midsummer evening for a key society event. Members attending will elect at least three new trustees to fill vacancies arising from Margaret Brenchley's recent move from Bracknell, and

resignations received from Sally-Ann Jay and Arthur Beech. This is a moment to thank all committee members, who have worked assiduously during the year to take your society forward and ensure that it is well-equipped to face future challenges. I would also like to thank those society members whose regular support underpins the meetings, projects, commercial operations, research centre activities, advice sessions and the myriad other tasks that enable Berkshire Family History Society to satisfy the needs and expectations of its members and the public.

## It's time to renew your membership

Your new membership year starts on 1 July and a renewal form comes with your magazine. Unlike the GRO, the Executive Committee has kept membership fees unchanged for 2010/2011, appreciating that many costs are rising elsewhere. Whether you do it online or by post, please renew promptly to continue to enjoy all your membership benefits. And, if you are eligible to make a Gift Aid Declaration but have yet to do so, why not complete that form too? Early renewals save on costs of further reminders and, at no cost to you, Gift Aided donations and subscriptions provide welcome added income for your society.

## A worthy website

It seems only a short while ago that Chad Hanna and I were examining how best to upgrade your society's online presence. Now, less than a year later, you can explore a ground-breaking new website and benefit from its numerous features, some of which are outlined in this magazine. On your behalf I would like to thank Chad particularly for his substantial core input, along with fellow development team members – Mike Dabbs, Gillian Stevens, Ken Wheeler and Brian Wilcock – and the many individual web page authors who have delivered a site of which all involved can be justly proud.

### Just the man or woman for the job

Without turning this page into a situations vacant column I must draw your attention to some vacancies in key society roles, which need to be filled urgently. Topping the list is the need for a Research Centre manager to oversee successful operations at Yeomanry House, with the support of an enlarged Research Centre committee and a strong team of research assistants. And if you live within striking distance of Reading, have a few hours

to spare, and particular skills in IT, book-keeping or publicity/media relations, there are roles waiting for you too! The society is willing to meet reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Whether you are in or out of county, there are lots of other ways in which volunteers can help the society. If you would like to know more, talk to me at a branch meeting, give me a call or send an email.

**Derek Trinder**  
<[chairman@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@berksfhs.org.uk)>

## Annual general meeting

All members are welcome to attend the society's annual general meeting, which will be held at 19.30 on Wednesday 23 June 2010 in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DS. (NB: no access via Love Lane.)

Newbury Branch is hosting the meeting, which will be followed by a talk, in respect of which there has been a change of speaker; in place of Michael Gandy (who is now unable to come), Dr Geoff Swinfield will give a talk entitled *I'm stuck! Techniques and sources for breaking down brick walls to identify elusive ancestors.*

## Berkshire Burial Index update

**David Wright**

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2010 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These will be included in the next update of the CD, which we aim to issue towards the end of the year. The index now contains more than 696,000 entries.

***Clewer St Andrew 1914 - 1919***

***East Challow St Nicholas 1712 - 1777***

***Newbury Shaw Cemetery 1927 - 1930, 1940 - 1943 and 1951 - 1954***

***Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Cemetery 1927 - 1936, 1938 - 1940 and 1945 - 1946***

***Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium Jul 1957 - Oct 1957 and 1958 - 1959***

***Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground) 1917 - 1924 and 1935 - 1941***

***Sunningdale Baptist 1843 - 1978***

***Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1638 - 1696***

***Tilehurst St Michael 1955 - 1971***

***Wallingford St Mary the More 1712 - 1747***

***Waltham St Lawrence 1775 - 1812***

***Welford St Gregory 1559 - 1648***

***West Challow St Laurence 1654 - 1690 and 1694 - 1820***

***Winkfield St Mary 1779 - 1797***

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 34.

# Around the branches

## *Bracknell and Wokingham Branch*

<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>

The bad weather that impacted on our Christmas meeting continued into the New Year, and prevented many from reaching our January meeting. This was unfortunate on two counts. First, they missed an excellent series of presentations from our own members showing what a wealth of talent exists in the branch and, second, they were unable to say farewell to our chairman, Margaret Brenchley, who has moved back to her native Yorkshire. We wish her well in her new home and thank her for all her efforts over the last couple of years.

Alan Doel, our treasurer, is standing down (many thanks for your contribution, Alan) so the committee was looking somewhat depleted. Some sabre-rattling and the Kitchener poster were used to good effect, and the necessary nominations for new members were received. By the time this is read the new committee should be well established.

Peter Beaven has started work on the MIs at St John's Crowthorne, and we look forward to seeing the same kind of professional end product as the Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground CD produced last year.

John Feast's talks and workshops at Sandhurst have

proved very popular, and the monthly advice sessions are always fully booked. Other possible sites are being considered, as people prefer visiting their local library to travelling to either Bracknell or Wokingham.

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## *Computer Branch*

<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>

On an extremely snowy day in January the first drop-in session for 2010 was held at Woodley Library; two enthusiastic visitors turned up. In February the session attracted five visitors, who were all delighted to accept the help on offer. The monthly sessions continue to prosper.

In recent months Computer Branch members have been deeply involved in training authors for the society's new website.

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## *Newbury Branch*

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>

West Berks Museum has at last reopened on 1 April after a long closure. Jane Burrell, formerly the museum's curator, and Phil Wood have signed up as volunteers.

They also represent the branch on the now up-and-running West Berkshire Heritage Forum.

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## *Reading Branch*

<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>

John Price's drop-in sessions at Sonning Library continue to be popular, as are his talks.

The branch has also successfully introduced a helpdesk at branch meetings, manned by Barry and Carolyn Boulton. Queries are submitted on a form, and answers can sometimes be given before the end of the meeting, but if not, the enquirer will be contacted later.

The branch is in urgent need of two volunteers: one to run the library, and another to organise refreshments.

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## *Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch*

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk>

The Local Studies Library in Slough used to have 12 or so computers dedicated to family history one afternoon a month. Two members from the branch would go in to assist members of the public. Sadly, these computers have been moved upstairs, and to date have not been set up in working order. Researchers now have to use the general public computers, and it is not so easy to help them due to the layout.

In February Pauline Hodges and Valerie Storie gave a presentation on Burnham Abbey at the AGM of Slough Community Transport and ShopMobility. Despite visibility problems (no black-out on a sunny afternoon) there were plenty of questions. A longer version was also given to and appreciated by Theale Local History Group in

March, and again in Maidenhead in April. Further bookings include the Burnham Society and the Townswomen's Guild in Windsor.

In April, Pauline Hodges gave a short talk on family history to Cobwebs, which is a small ladies' group in Burnham.

## Vale of White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>

On Saturday 10 April the branch had a table at the Abingdon Clubs and Societies Open Day in the town, which was very busy with a craft fair in an adjacent building, and music and dance on the Market Square. Quite a few visitors showed interest in the books and CDs, and some said they would come to the next meeting. The laptop with internet was a success, with several visitors having queries about their ancestors. The stall was visited mid-afternoon by the Oxford West and Abingdon LibDem MP Dr Evan Harris, who was electioneering in the town.



### Nimrod Research

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Bideford, Devon, EX39 1PH  
enquiries@nimrodresearch.co.uk  
www.nimrodresearch.co.uk

## New leaflet promotes society membership

The society's glossy new, full-colour leaflet promoting membership was published at the end of January, in time for the Bracknell Family History Fair. Copies were also widely distributed at *WDYTYALive*, and branches have been busily distributing them to local libraries and other public information centres around the county. Everyone is welcome to help spread the message about membership benefits. If you have access to potential new members through membership of other organisations please contact the Research Centre about obtaining a supply of copies.



### Members interests — are yours up to date?

All members are encouraged to register and maintain their surname interests with the society. The full list can be seen on <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/members-interests](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/members-interests)>. Amendments can be made at any time by email to <[membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk)>. Please use the following comma-separated format:

*membership number, NAME interest, place, Chapman Code, period, eg, 8765, BUGGS, Lower Bugglesworth, LAN, 1750-1900*

## Subscription renewal

The subscription year ends on 30 June, and a renewal form is enclosed with this issue of the *Historian*.

**Please renew now**, either online at <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership)> using your credit card or by post with a cheque. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet completed a Gift Aid form in respect of your subscription, please do that too; it costs you nothing and is of enormous help to the society.



<b>Dates for your diary</b>			
<b>date</b>	<b>event</b>	<b>venue</b>	<b>more details</b>
10.00-15.30 Sat 19 Jun	Wiltshire FHS open day	Wiltshire College Salisbury SP1 2LW	<www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk>
19.30 Wed 23 Jun	Berks FHS AGM	St Mary's Church Hall Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DS	<secretary@berksfhs.org.uk>
10.00-16.00 Sat 4 July	Bucks FHS open day	Grange School Aylesbury HP21 7NH	<www.bucksfhs.org.uk>
10.00-16.00 Sun 26 Sept	West Middlesex FHS open day	White House Community Centre, Hampton TW12 3RN	<www.west-middlesex- fhs.org.uk>

## ***New website progress*** **Chad Hanna**

With fair luck and a following wind the new website should be live when you read this.

First, I want to introduce you to the new online bookshop as though it is live. The bookshop pages now list nearly 800 different items and there are several ways to find what you want.

- *New and featured items, such as the Berkshire Burial Index, are listed on the front page*
- *The search box on every page searches the bookshop as well as the rest of the website*
- *The bookshop is organised into categories, and any item may be listed in more than one category*
- *The new search box is always up to date, unlike the old search box, which relied on Google inspecting the website at intervals.*

Another feature is that the new bookshop pages show the price of an item without handling, postage and packing. These are now

added when you check out, and they will vary depending on the total weight and the destination. For those of you tempted to weigh your order after you receive it, I can tell you right now that the weight used is a notional weight including packing and special handling, and adjusted so that the postage comes out roughly right.

Updating the programme of events was one of the major webmaster tasks on the old website, partly because every event had to appear in two places. The new online calendar is a great deal easier to keep up to date, and the branch programme secretaries (or their nominees) are now able to make changes. The calendar is one of the most used features of the website, and we have taken time in trying to get it right. The one adopted is at least the third we have tried, out of many that we looked at. The calendar is also featured on the home page, so you can quickly find events that are taking place in the near future.

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## **Seven easy ways for newcomers to join the society**

- ***online at <www.berksfhs.org.uk>***
- ***download a membership form from <www.berksfhs.org.uk> and return it by post***
- ***email <memsec@berksfhs.org.uk> for a form to be sent to you***
- ***come to a meeting at any of the society's six branches***
- ***ask at the society's stand at a family history event***
- ***drop into the society's Research Centre in Reading***
- ***phone 0118 950 9553 for a membership form to be sent to you***

## A lesson in spin...

A genealogy researcher in California discovered in her own family tree one Remus Reid, who was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Furthermore, she discovered that he was a great-great-uncle of present-day US senator Harry Reid.



The only known photograph of Remus Reid shows him standing on the gallows in the Montana Territory. On the back is this inscription:

*Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.*

The researcher emailed Senator Harry Reid for information about their common forebear, and received from his office the following biographical sketch in reply:

*Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889 Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.*

***This charming story, which recently circulated around Newbury Branch members, turns out – sadly – to be an urban myth that has been applied to numerous Stateside politicians over the last decade. (Google Remus Reid to see.) Still, it bears repeating if only as an example of how to deal with that embarrassing black sheep in the family tree...***

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## Web wonders

Debbie Kennett draws members' attention to two new websites:

<[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)> archiving over one million church records from Dublin and Kerry  
<<http://lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration>> Mormon migration records.

Ivan Dickason reports that the final batch of Admiralty files from ADM139 has now been digitised, making over 680,000 Royal Navy seamen records available to search and download online. Uncover fascinating facts about your ancestors, including their physical appearance and the ships on which they served. Some files even contain notes about the recruits' character and ability.

<[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/royal-navy-service.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/royal-navy-service.asp)>

Those who have had the pleasure of hearing Ian Currie's weather talk at branch meetings may like to be reminded that his website is <[www.frostedearth.com](http://www.frostedearth.com)>.

# A meeting 185 years in the making

***In 1824, two young Hungerford men broke into the home of a local schoolmaster, stealing silverware and cash. Soon arrested, they were transported for life to Van Diemen's Land. When Australian descendants of those men met for the first time in January 2010, they had much to talk about. Margaret Young (3529) tells the story of their chance encounter.***

On the night of 18 December 1824 George Breadmore, 19, and John Giles, 24, who had been drinking together earlier in the evening, broke into the home of George Edwards, a Hungerford schoolmaster, and stole some valuable silver as well as a quantity of bank-notes. Arrested the following day with some of the goods still in their possession, Breadmore and Giles were tried together at Reading Assizes on 1 March 1825. With no option but to plead guilty, they were sentenced to death, later commuted to transportation for life. Fourteen months later, most of that time spent on prison hulks, they were put aboard the *Chapman* and arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 7 October 1826.

At Hobart Town, Breadmore was first assigned as a farm labourer to a Mr King, but soon afterwards was transferred to Maria Island Penal Settlement, where he spent the next three years. He was then assigned to a Mr Samuel Bryan, a wealthy landowner near Launceston in the north of the colony. Giles was assigned to the Public Works Department in Hobart, and seems to have remained there.

There is no evidence that the pair ever had contact with each other again, but after receiving their tickets-of-leave in the mid-1830s, both applied for permission to marry. Breadmore remained in VDL, eventually became a tenant farmer at Westbury in the north of the colony, raised a big family, and died there in 1880. Giles left VDL soon after receiving his conditional pardon. With his wife and only child, Zachariah, he settled at Taradale in Victoria. Later he moved to the Ballarat goldfields, where he died in 1869.

Today, it might seem strange to some people that the families of Breadmore and Giles, whose lives were so dramatically inter-

twined by their crime and transportation, had not met before this. But, as Don Bradmore, great-great-grandson of George Breadmore, explains:

*"For many decades it was shameful to admit to having a convict ancestor, and people would go to great trouble to hide the fact. However, that's all changed now, and having a convict heritage has become quite chic. I belong to the Descendants of Convicts Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria (Australia), and I wear my badge with pride."*

In late 2009, Don Bradmore emailed Reading Libraries to request a photocopy of the report of the Breadmore-Giles trial, which had appeared in the *Berkshire Chronicle*. The reply he received bore exciting news. As Don put it:

*"I've had a copy of the newspaper report of the trial for some years but it was becoming tattered through constant use, so I sent away for a replacement. You can imagine my surprise and delight when the librarian who answered my email mentioned that, coincidentally, she had received a request for the same report from the 3xgreat-granddaughter of John Giles earlier that same week."*

Would Don like the lady's email address, if she were to agree? Indeed he would! You can imagine his further surprise when, on making contact, he discovered that they were living not more than two hours' drive apart.

And so it happened that on 14 January 2010, Don Bradmore and Jan Humphreys met for lunch at Rye, Victoria, where they whiled away several hours sharing information about their convict ancestors, and marvelling at the remarkable coincidence of their meeting – one that had been 185 years in the making!



*Don Bradmore and Jan Humphreys*



*A more detailed account of the Hungerford burglary and the Breadmore-Giles trial can be found at <[www.breadmore.org](http://www.breadmore.org)>. The authors would be pleased to hear from any reader who can confirm the location of the Hungerford schoolmaster's house which was burgled by Breadmore and Giles. It is believed to be the house which still stands at 41 High Street, Hungerford, now known as Cameo House, but its occupancy by George Edwards in 1824 has not yet been established.*

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The society's total takings at Olympia in February were £1,751, spread fairly evenly across three days. This represents almost 24 per cent above those achieved last year.

CDs accounted for around half the total revenue, with the Berkshire Burial Index topping sales – 18 full versions and seven updates – closely followed by Berkshire OS maps, of which 23 were sold.

New memberships numbered 28, split 50/50 in county/out of county. 75 per cent of these were also Gift-Aided.

The chairman has expressed his thanks to all the volunteers who gave time and effort to make such a successful three days for the society.

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# The walls came tumbling down

## *Identity card details released*

**John Gurnett has been following the saga of access to the 1939 National Registration database, and celebrates the victory for family historians**

**Information gathered within a month of the declaration of war in 1939 giving the name, age, occupation and residence of the British people has been released by the NHS Information Centre in Southport.**

The National Registration system, under which all civilians were centrally registered and issued with identity cards, was based on an enumeration carried out on Friday 29 September 1939 using the machinery devised for the 1941 census. The 1941 census was never carried out because of the Second World War, so this National Registration was the only systematic counting of the population until 1951.

On that day householders were required to record on the registration forms details of residents in the United Kingdom. The register served as the basis of wartime administration, particularly for food rationing, identification and the maintenance of contact between members of dispersed families. The schedules were distributed by 65,000 enumerators, and every householder made a return of those spending the night in their household – a reflection of earlier censuses. The information required for each person included: name, sex, date of birth, marital condition, residence, occupation and whether they were a member of any fighting service. When the enumerators called to collect the schedules on the following Sunday and Monday they were required to write out and issue identity cards for all those registered. Summarised transcripts were sent to the Registrar-General and to the local food officer for the issue of ration books.

Transcripts from the enumerators' schedules were centralised at Southport, and this central register was kept up to date with the entry of births, deaths, changes of address and recruitment into the armed forces. Further regulations were issued concerning change of address.

*Following an appeal by Yorkshire genealogist Guy Etchells, the Freedom of Information Commissioner ruled that the NHS Information Centre should grant access to the 1939 National Registration data, but only for people who have since died. An application form and more information can be obtained from <[www.ic.nhs.uk/news-and-events/news](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/news-and-events/news)>. The cost of each application is £42, and there is no refund for unsuccessful searches.*

*In January 2010 the Registrar-General in Edinburgh agreed to release details of 1939 registration. Applications for Scotland can be made on a downloadable form available from <[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)>. The fee is £13, but the charge reduces to £5 where there is no trace of the individual.*

*For both services evidence of the death of the person subject to the inquiry is required.*

*There is as yet no corresponding information available for Northern Ireland.*

The identity card had two pages; at the top of each page the enumerator entered the person's name and identity card number. The first four letters of the identity card indicated the local enumeration district. In my father's case his National Registration Number was CJHL/290:1. This showed CJHL as the local enumerator district 290, the 290th house in the enumerator's schedule, and 1 as his position as head of household. My mother was number 2, my two sisters 3 and 4 and I was 5. If a card was destroyed then a Y was placed at the beginning of the district indicating duplicate.

Clothing books were marked in a similar fashion, with the holder's name in full, plus address followed by the holder's National Registration number, eg, DMFC/101/4 (DMFC was the local enumeration district for Banstead in Surrey). The left page held instructions that it should be shown to the police or a member of the armed services. "If called upon to produce the card you may produce it on the spot or within two days at a police station or a National Registration

Office.” On the right-hand page were spaces in which, at a later stage, the full postal address and signature of the holder should be entered. There was a warning: “do nothing with this part until you are told.”

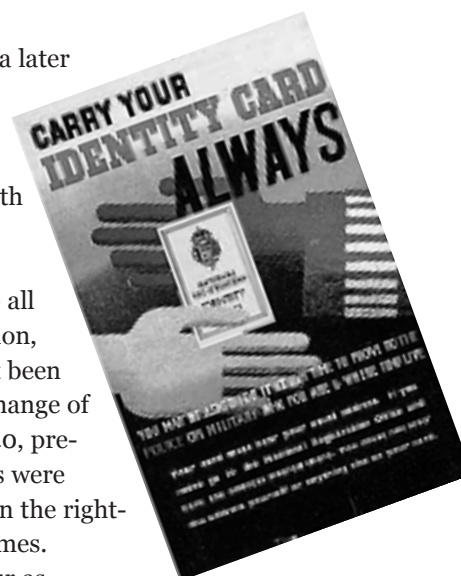
By October 1939 46 million people had been issued with identity cards, with special provisions for linking up the parents of evacuees.

The Registrar-General issued a warning in late 1941 to all brides not to alter identity cards without official permission, and it was a punishable offence to use one which had not been registered. Further regulations were issued concerning change of address and for new-born children. Later, on 25 May 1940, presumably as the danger of invasion increased, instructions were issued that everyone over 16 should write their address on the right-hand side of the card, and that it must be carried at all times.

Initially, adult identity cards were buff, the same colour as children’s cards, but in early 1943 registration and rationing were combined, and in May of that year the opportunity was taken to issue a new set of cards at the same time as new ration books. Civilian members of the population over 16 received a blue card to replace the previous buff one, and under-16-year-olds retained their existing buff card. Some employees of public utilities, wardens, first-aiders, rescue, ambulance and fire services were issued with a pale blue, three-panelled card.

Apart from its use as an identity card, the registration was also used as the basis for the issue of food ration books for sugar, bacon, cheese, fats, eggs and meat, with a separate book for clothing.

Identity cards were finally abolished in February 1952, but the identity numbers were used to form the basis of the NHS Central Register, a list of everyone who had been registered with a general practitioner in England and Wales since the foundation of the National Health Service in 1948. Until 1991 system was paper-based; since then a computer system known as CHRIS (Central Health Register Inquiry System) has been used. Unlike the census enumeration on which all the details of a household was recorded on a certain day, the identity card information was maintained and updated until the card was abolished in 1952. It is not clear whether or not this updating process was continued by the NHS.



The reason why the 1939 register is so important is that the 1931 census was destroyed by fire at a repository at Hayes in Middlesex in December 1942 – caused not by enemy action, but probably the carelessness of a fire-watcher who dropped a lighted cigarette in the paper store. Now that the 1939 register is accessible it is widely expected that the 1921 census may be accessible online either this year or in 2011.

# Through the rabbit hole

***Stan Cornford details the simple arithmetic of genealogy, using his own family history to show that almost all of us must have descended from ancient royalty***



Someone once asked me who was my favourite ancestor: I immediately thought of my Gran. Then I realised just how many ancestors we all have: two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and so on. With roughly 30 years between generations, we all had about 1,000 ancestors 300 years ago, a million 600 years ago and a thousand million only 900 years ago.

But that is probably more people than there were on earth, let alone in, say, what is now Great Britain. Many cousins, at different removes, must have married, often without realising that they were related. Marriage between first cousins reduces the number of their offspring's ancestors by half, between second cousins by a quarter and so on.

Even so, everyone of us had vast numbers of ancestors in historic times. We know only of those where evidence of the links between generations has survived. Before the time of Elizabeth I the church kept no routine records of christenings, marriages or burials, so the only ancestors most of us can be sure about are those few who passed land or titles from one generation to another, where records were kept to make sure that the right people inherited and where the records have, often almost randomly, survived.

I know who both my parents were, my four grandparents, my eight great-grandparents, and my 16 2xgreat-grandparents. Then I've still work to do. I know only:

25 of my 32 3xgreat-grandparents  
23 of my 64 4xgreat-grandparents  
19 of my 128 5x great-grandparents  
21 of my 256 6xgreat-grandparents  
and only 17 out of my 512 7xgreat-grandparents, who were alive around the time of the Civil War (or, if you prefer, the Great Rebellion).

So, taking a longer view, a favourite ancestor depends greatly on those about whom one knows. Often an ancestor who has needed a great deal of work and interest – a brick wall – becomes a favourite. On my father's side, all known ancestors are from Sussex. Those on my mother's side were drawn much more widely<sup>1</sup>.

For a time, my favourite ancestor on my mother's side was a captain in George III's Royal Navy, Edward Herbert, one of my 16 3xgreat-grandparents. I found out a good deal about his career, from naval documentation at The National Archives (TNA) at Kew or in



naval museums, especially the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, but he was my brick wall: I could not find who his parents were. I suspected that his mother was a Beata Price or Harbert (sic) who was baptised in Miserden, the Gloucestershire village where Edward was buried. Then an email contact found Edward had a sister, Tamar, who in a letter referred to Beata as their mother. Next I found a letter in TNA in which Edward referred to his losing a half-brother when Captain John Neale Pleydell Nott RN was killed in action off Martinique in 1781.

Now J N P Nott has a memorial in St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, Wiltshire. I found a picture of it on the web<sup>2</sup>. A visit to Cricklade Museum produced a record of the marriage of J N P Nott's father, John Nott of Braydon, Wiltshire, to Beata Price or Herbert only a few days before John Nott's burial. John Nott's first wife had died almost 17 years earlier. Curiously, the memorial he too has in St Sampson's<sup>3</sup> says he died on 23 June 1763. However, he made his will on 26 June, leaving much of his estate to Beata and her children, married her on 28 June and was buried on 8 July. So it looks as though someone did not want his death-bed marriage cast in stone on the church wall, but it did not prevent the will being proved. A solution which fits is that Beata and the widowed John had a ménage which they regularised in the days before his death.

This opened up a wealth of information. The Notts were well connected. Cricklade Museum had a family tree, going back to Margaret de Beauchamp (1410-82) who, irrelevantly, subsequently married a grandson of John of Gaunt. She was one of my 32,768 13xgreat-grandparents, of whom I know only 15 names. Research may throw up some more, but most would have been workers on the land leaving no record.

Following up the ancestors of women in the family, I found that through one of my reputed 128 6xgreat-grandmothers, Arabella Lovett (1631 - 1704), I was descended from a Lovett who was Master of Wolfhounds to William the

Conqueror! What excitement – under the brick wall into Wonderland!

Through other ladies I am also, reputedly, descended from at least three Knights of the Garter in the early years of the order after 1348, from King Henry II, King Henry I, William the Conqueror, even Alfred the Great, Charlemagne and Henry the Fowler, Emperor of Germany!

***So, almost certainly are we all.***

I began by pointing out the vast numbers of our ancient ancestors; think, too, of the number of descendants people generate over the centuries. If a family has four children, then the parents could have 1,024 descendants after about 150 years, a million after 300 years and so on. Without cousin marriages the number of descendants quickly exceeds the population of the country and then of the earth. William the Conqueror<sup>4</sup>, my reputed 25xgreat-grandfather, must have innumerable descendants today, 27 generations on. So it is not at all improbable that, like you, I'm descended from people we know about from the history books.

But, after all this thinking, my favourite ancestor is still my Gran. With her, it was not only genetics – nature – but also nurture: she taught me to tie my shoelaces, and that “First the foot and then the head, that's the way to make a bed”; she loved me.



1 Including Sarah Aldworth (1835-88) of a Garsington, Oxfordshire, farming family which must surely have originated in Aldworth, Berkshire.

2 <[www.oodwooc.co.uk/web\\_pics/cricklade/Crickpc027.jpg](http://www.oodwooc.co.uk/web_pics/cricklade/Crickpc027.jpg)>

3 <[www.oodwooc.co.uk/web\\_pics/cricklade/Crickpc025.jpg](http://www.oodwooc.co.uk/web_pics/cricklade/Crickpc025.jpg)>

4 William I was born 1028, I in 1930: the average duration of the 27 generations in this line of 28 people comes to 33.4 years.



# Granny Major and the internet



**In researching our family history we have all come up against the apparently impenetrable brick wall, when we can go no further along an ancestral line without making assumptions that may lead to subsequent wasted effort. I hope that the following story will reassure you that a mixture of patience and persistence will usually pay off, although it may take a while.**

I never met Granny Major. She died before I was born, but my father sometimes mentioned her, explaining that she was his maternal grandmother, and that she was very much a part of his early life. When in the 1980s I began to be interested in my family history I sought more information about her, but only from my father and his sister, since their mother, Granny Major's daughter, had died many years before. My aunt Eileen was able to pass on to me two very useful documents: copies of her grandmother's birth and marriage certificates. These revealed that Granny Major had been born in 1862 in

***Peter Francis (2024)  
demonstrates that perseverance,  
with a bit of help from the  
internet, pays off***

Birmingham, registered as Jane Jarvis, the daughter of Thomas Jarvis, a journeyman shoemaker, and Charlotte Jarvis, formerly Smith. In 1890 Alice Jane Jarvis married Edward Major at All Saints Church in Newington, London, from which document it was apparent that Alice (as she preferred to be known) was illiterate. I happily worked on a Jarvis family tree for several years, finding out that Thomas and Charlotte had moved to Birmingham from Oxford, and that they subsequently took their family of five children to Shoreditch in London.

My father also told me that his mother had been illegitimate, having been born long before Alice's marriage to Edward Major. I then obtained her birth certificate, having ascertained enough data from my father to ensure that I had identified the correct person. Alice Charlotte Fish was born in 1882 in Southwark, the daughter of Arthur Charles Fish (a brewer's servant) and Alice Jane Fish, formerly Jarvis. However my father knew that there had not been a marriage between the two. There the story rested, since at that time the task of hunting through the registers of very many parishes in both Shoreditch and Southwark, and through their densely populated streets in the census returns, in order to find additional information on the life of Granny Major and her family, was a daunting prospect, and there were other easier ancestral lines to explore.

When the 1881 census was made available as a searchable source I was able to get a little more information. In 1881 Alice Jarvis, age 21, born in Birmingham, was a domestic servant in Shoreditch. Neither her mother nor her father were traceable, but my aunt Eileen remembered as a child visiting her great-aunt, Lucy Chapel, one of Alice's sisters, who lived in Dalston. Lucy Chapel was found living in Shoreditch in 1881, along with John Chapel, whom she had married in

1875. This sister of Alice played a pivotal role in much of my later researches, and my aunt remembering her married name was a critical piece of the puzzle.

I was of course also interested in my great-grandfather, reputedly Arthur Charles Fish. None of that exact name was found in the 1881 census index, but an “advanced” search of that source, using “Fish” and “brewer” as input terms came up with Chas. Fish, aged 28, a brewer’s drayman, born in Bishops Stortford, living in Bermondsey. This looked to be a very promising, but not a very happy, find, since he was married. However there was no certainty that he was the man that I was looking for, so once again research into this area of the family was put aside until a later date, and my great-grandfather’s identity remained unknown.

As the years passed several commercial companies gradually put the data from other census years onto the web as searchable sources, and of course later census years were released for public scrutiny. From that time onward Granny Major and the internet became connected in a web of inter-related data that gradually shed light on her earlier years. On the FreeBMD website I found that her father Thomas Jarvis had died in Shoreditch in 1868. The 1871 census showed Alice living with her mother Charlotte Jarvis in Shoreditch, along with older siblings, Peter and Charlotte junior. Charlotte Jarvis senior remarried shortly after this census, but died in 1874. At that time Alice would only have been 12 years old, and probably either went directly into service, or possibly lived with an older sibling for a time.

The 1891 census yielded more information on other Jarvis family members, but I could not find Edward and Alice Major, with a nine-year-old Alice. However, when it was released I did find Alice and Ed Major, with a daughter Harriett, in the 1901 census, and a possible identification of a suitable Alice Fish, but not living with them.

So, all through the early 2000s the big questions remained: how did Alice Jarvis go from being in service in Shoreditch in 1881 to

being an unmarried mother in Southwark in 1882? How did she meet Arthur Charles Fish, and was he the one found in the 1881 census?

The answers were eventually found by further exploration of the family of Alice’s sister Lucy Chapel, but only after many more years had passed. The recently released 1911 census revealed that another Jarvis sister, Charlotte, was living with John and Lucy Chapel in 1911. At that time she was known as Charlotte Newman, sister-in-law and widow, having been married for 22 years. Going back 20 years to the 1891 census I found a George and Charlotte Newman living not far from John and Lucy Chapel in Shoreditch, Charlotte being of the correct age and born in Birmingham. But in FreeBMD I found that George Newman had married Charlotte Saltmarsh. Perhaps she had been a widow?

Sure enough, in the 1881 census I found a William and Charlotte Saltmarsh living in Southwark, although I have yet to find their marriage. William Saltmarsh had died a few years later in 1887, and Charlotte had remarried in 1889. The evidence that finally convinced me that I had found the correct Charles Fish in 1881 was that William Saltmarsh was also a drayman, and that he also came from Bishops Stortford. Added to this was the fact that the address where my grandmother was born was along the street from where her aunt, Charlotte Saltmarsh, lived at that time. I concluded that Alice had met Charles via her sister’s husband, and that it was safe to begin to explore my Fish ancestry.

Granny Major died in 1941, and was buried at Nunhead cemetery in South London. It took me nearly 25 years to unravel the identity of her first partner. I never gave up, but logged every fact as it came along. Eventually sufficient evidence convinced me that I had my man, and I have now traced the Fish family of Bishops Stortford back into the mid-eighteenth century. As for Charles Fish, subsequent evidence shows that he was married and widowed three times before he died in 1901, so perhaps Granny Major was fortunate!

# From Kintbury to Australia

***Janet Robson (6808) finds mixed fortunes among members of her family who took part in the Swing Riots of 1830***

**I was browsing through a piece by Jill Chambers about the 1830 Swing Riots in Berkshire, particularly around Kintbury, when my eye caught the names of William Page and Robert Page among the rioters who had been transported to Australia. My maternal grandmother's maiden name was Page, and she had been born and bred in Kintbury. I had to find out if William and Robert were early members of her Page family.**

Pages had been in Kintbury for many generations. My grandmother was born Rose Harriet Page in 1884; she was the second of five daughters of John Barlow Page (born 1849), sometime hairdresser and newsagent, with a family business in the middle of Kintbury. His father was a John Page (born 1812), and his father in turn was Barlow Page (born in Kintbury in 1781). Barlow was the son of yet another John Page, and Mary Rogers, married in Kintbury on 8 December 1786, and amongst Barlow's many siblings were two younger brothers: William, baptised in Kintbury in 1792, and Robert, baptised in 1799. Could it have been these two who were transported, and could their older brother Barlow Page, my great-great-great grandfather, have been involved as well?

I began by looking at the Australian records online at Ancestry. It did not take long to find that the William and Robert in question had sailed for New South Wales aboard the convict ship *Eleanor*, which departed from Portsmouth on 19 February 1831, eventually arriving at Sydney Cove on 26 June 1831, after

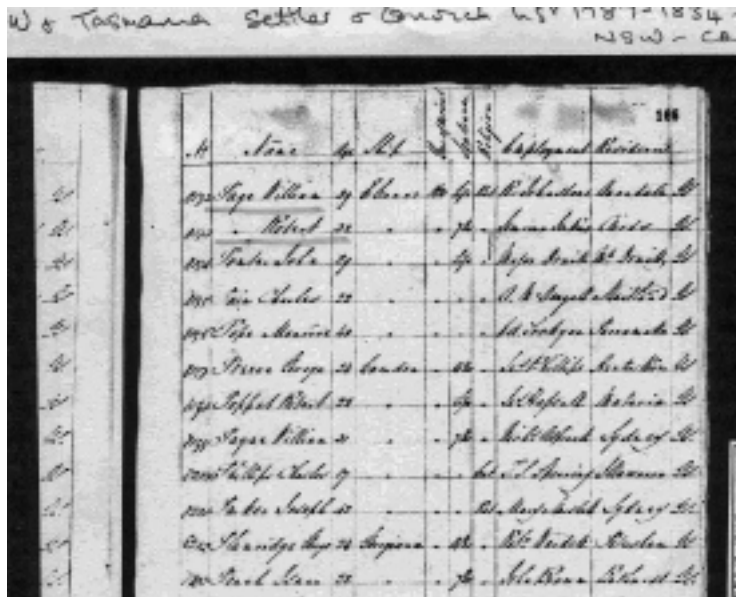
18 weeks at sea. Convict movements are well documented, and it was easy to find both names on the list on board the *Eleanor*, and again on muster lists after their arrival in Australia. William's age is stated as being 39, and Robert 32, which appears to correspond with their ages in relation to the Kintbury baptism registers.

Their trial had taken place at the end of December 1830 at the special assizes held at Reading. I found contemporary accounts of the trials of the Swing rioters in *The Times*. William was charged with robbing a William Clarkson of Kintbury of 40 shillings on 22 November 1830. His sentence was death, but this was commuted to transportation for life. Robert was charged with assaulting a James Franklin at Enborne, and robbing him of two sovereigns, and of destroying a threshing machine, property of Joseph Stanbrook, on 23 November 1830. He was acquitted of the robbery, but found guilty of destroying the threshing machine and sentenced to seven years transportation.

Along with the other prisoners, the brothers were taken to the prison hulk York in Portsmouth harbour before being transferred to the *Eleanor*.

On arrival in Australia the convicts were assigned to work for particular employers: William to R Johnstone at Annadale, and Robert to Jemima Jenkins at Airds. Little is known about what became of them, but they were both granted tickets of leave in 1837; this meant they could wear their own clothes, find their own employer and earn money in their own right, but they were not free to leave the area. Then in 1838, both were granted a free pardon. They did not return to Kintbury.

Both left wives and children back at home. William had married Harriet Sturgess in Kintbury in 1825, and had George (born in 1828) and Mary Ann (who was born July 1831, after her father had been transported, but died 1833). By 1841, Harriet is found living as Harriet Smith with her children and with William Smith.



William and Robert Page listed in the NSW Convict Muster 1834

Robert's wife, Lucy Cook (married in 1824), and with whom he had four children, re-married on Christmas Day 1848. She married a widower Felix Baker in Hungerford Congregational Chapel, and is described on the marriage certificate as a widow.

But what of Barlow Page, my direct ancestor? He had also taken part in the rioting, and in *The Times* of Monday 3 January 1831 I found a report of his trial. He was said to have robbed Anthony Heath and Stephen Collier of one sovereign apiece. But Barlow was the lucky one; he, and those on trial with him, were acquitted, and sent back home on the promise of keeping the peace. The account in *The Times* was as follows:

*James Cook was put to the bar, being indicted for having feloniously assaulted and robbed Thomas Mathews of a sovereign. Henry Day, John Burgess, Edward Everett, William Taylor, Thomas Taylor, John Stockwell, John Church, James Wilkins, George Dobson, and Barlow Page were put to the bar, being respectively indicted for similar offences. William Car, Anthony Edwards, and James Bennett were at the same time arraigned for having destroyed two threshing machines. All the above-mentioned prisoners having*

*been placed in the dock together – Mr Gurney, addressing the jury, said that they had now arrived at that stage of these proceedings at which he found that he could, consistently with his duty to his country, and to the Government, abstain*

*from any more prosecutions for felony in this place. It was with inconceivable grief that he had, day after day, accumulated convictions upon convictions; but justice and the peace and safety of the country required it, and the duty he had performed, however painful, was one of absolute necessity. Against the prisoners at the bar he should offer no evidence whatever. He trusted that there had been made a sufficient number of examples to ensure the peace of this part of the country, and he felt much pleasure in being able to allow these men to return to the bosom of their families – to return thither, he hoped, sensible of the clemency which had been shown towards them, and anxious to warn their neighbours against taking a share in similar proceedings to those but which for the lenity of the Government, must have ended in the forfeiture of the lives of some of them. The jury would of course acquit the prisoners. Mr Justice Park then made a very feeling address to the prisoners, who were acquitted and discharged upon entering into their recognisances to keep the peace.*

*The prisoners expressed their gratitude for the course that had been pursued towards them, and promised to lead peaceful lives for the future.*





*The Page sisters, daughters of Barlow and Charlotte Page. The writer's grandmother, Rose, is seated first right.*

So Barlow did not follow his younger brothers to Australia. He really had a lucky escape, though it must have been a disaster and a great sadness to all the family to see the two brothers go.

Barlow lived the rest of his life in Kintbury, working as a carpenter, and he can be found on the censuses there until 1861. He and Charlotte had at least 10 children, most born before the time of the riots, but the youngest, Elizabeth was born afterwards in 1832. Charlotte died of dropsy on 3 December 1855.

In 1861 Barlow was living on his own near the Wesleyan Chapel, now a widower aged 72. At some point in the next few years, he entered the Hungerford Union Workhouse, and died there in 1869, aged 80, of "age & a bed sore".



*The Page family home and business on the corner of Inkpen Road, in Kintbury*



# Only connect...

**Stuart Eagles (2242)  
finds unexpected links in his ancestry**

*Only connect the prose  
and the passion, and both will  
be exalted, and human love will  
be seen at its height. Live in  
fragments no longer. Only  
connect, and the beast and the  
monk, robbed of the isolation  
that is life to either, will die.*

E M Forster. *Howards End* (1910)  
chapter 22

**On the principle of the six degrees of separation, which holds that we are only ever at most six steps away from any other soul on earth, it is likely that when your genealogical diggings go deep enough you are bound to unearth odd coincidences. This does not, however, detract from the sense of surprise one feels when first making the discovery, nor the sense of satisfaction it provides when, on reflection, you do E M Forster's bidding and connect, if not the poetry and the passion, then at least the intertwining branches of one's family tree.**

Like my parents, I was born in Reading, although our centre of ancestral gravity some 200 years ago lies in the Berkshire Downs, in particular, the villages of Brightwalton and Farnborough. My paternal grandfather was born in Winchester and my grandmother in Cawnpore (now Kanpur), India. They met in Reading, to where they had both migrated by the 1930s, but neither was aware that there had been a point of contact between their ancestors over a century earlier.

My paternal grandfather's Eagles ancestors had moved from Lockinge to Brightwalton by 1786, when John Eagles (circa 1759 - 1822), a carpenter, married Jane Savory (1760 - 1841) in the parish church. They are my 4xgreat-grandparents. Eagles remained in the village until the 1860s, when my 2xgreat-grandfather, after a series of moves which took him from Andover, through Newbury to Micheldever, settled in Winchester. The Savorys, wheelwrights and later medical men, first settled in Brightwalton from South Moreton in the first decades of the eighteenth century.

By 1796, neatly a decade after John and Jane, and also at Brightwalton, my paternal grandmother's direct ancestor, George Bennett (circa 1772 - 1844), a labourer, married Hannah Crip(p)s (1771 - 1841). They, too, are my 4xgreat-grandparents. Hannah's mother, Hannah Mouldy, had a Brightwalton ancestry stretching, like the Savorys', back to at least the 1710s. The Bennett descendants who were my direct ancestors would move to Goring and, via marriage into the Akett and Crouchman families, they would eventually move from London through military service to British India.

The two sets of 4xgreat-grandparents, despite a difference in social status, are unlikely not to have known each other in a village of 400 people, which was the number of residents recorded in 1790. This figure comes from an unofficial census which recorded the names of each head of family, and the status (son, daughter, servant etc.) of his or her fellow

*A painting of the church at Brightwalton from the period covered in the article.*



*Lower Farm, Farnborough*



householders. It was compiled by William Savory (1768 - 1824), the village medic and parish clerk. It includes his brother-in-law, John Eagles, as well as references to the Bennett, Mouldy and Crips families.

One of John and Jane Eagles's five children, my 3x great-grandfather, Silas (1795 - 1848), sometime carpenter, sometime baker, married Amy Kingham (1801-42), the daughter of James Kingham (*circa* 1769 - 1843), one of the farmers in neighbouring Farnborough. Silas and Amy wed in 1821 at St. Aldate's, Oxford, coincidentally the parish in which I later lived as a doctoral student at Oxford.

The Kinghams had come to Lower (or South) Farm, Farnborough, in 1786, having earlier farmed at Wick Farm, Radley, after moving to the area from the Buckinghamshire Risboroughs. Lower Farm consisted of 780 acres, which the family initially rented for £420 per annum (roughly £30,000 in today's money). In the first decade of the nineteenth century, his parents now deceased, James Kingham took over as principal farmer.

Farming could be a hazardous business, and it is not surprising that, as a young man in the

first quarter of 1791, he "by accident shot his hand with a Gun," and was treated by the only local medical practitioner, William Savory of Brightwalton (to whom, remember, he would only be related by marriage from 1821).

A farm of 780 acres, with all the buildings, farmhouse, houses, outhouses, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, ways, waters, hedges, ditches, walls, gates, stiles, rails, poles, posts, mounds, bounds and fences to maintain and keep in repair, and the hay, straw and fodder, dung, soil and compost to deal with, the animals to look after, and the sowing and reaping to complete, necessarily entailed the employment of many local villagers. One such was almost certainly Sarah Lyford (1790 - 1860), née Morley, for she was named as the informant on James Kingham's death certificate when he died in Farnborough, aged 73, on 18 February 1843 as a result of what the early Victorians unhelpfully called decline. Given that the two were unrelated, and we know that Sarah's husband, James Lyford (1790 - 1867) was a labourer, it is reasonable to speculate that Sarah was probably working in the farmhouse as some sort of housekeeper,

given that she was then in her early to mid-fifties. It is reasonable to speculate further that, given the fact that she was entrusted with informing the authorities of James Kingham's death, she was a trusted and respected servant, too.

And she provides the final connection here, because Sarah is also – this time through my mother – one of my 32 4x great-grandmothers. The Lyfords (the name was sometimes spelled Liford or Liverd) appear, like the Kinghams, to have moved to Farnborough around 1786 (the year which records the baptism of James's eldest brother). William Savory agreed with the overseers of Farnborough in April 1791 to attend to the medical needs of the poor of the parish at an annual fee of £2 12s 6d "small pox, fractures & midwifery excluded", and in the list of families he attended is Liverd. In other words, one of my 5x paternal great-uncles provided medical care for the family of one set of my 5x maternal great-grandparents!

To linger too long on thoughts about fate is fruitless, even if it is fun, but to ignore such moments when relatively distant ancestors exchanged words, glances and whatever else besides, is not merely lacking in romantic spirit, but is historically insensitive. It causes me to wonder how many other family historians have found such instances of ancestral familiarity in their own researches?

***In his spare time, Stuart Eagles is working on a biography of his ancestor, William Savory, based on Savory's eighteenth-century commonplace book. His book, After Ruskin, a study of the political and social influence of the Victorian art and social critic, John Ruskin (1819 - 1900), is to be published early next year by Oxford University Press.***

#### Source notes

1. Berkshire Record Office D E/W O8. The List of Souls in Brightwaltham Octr 1790. pp182-5
- 2 Agreement between Rev John Craven and Joseph Kingham for the 14-year lease of Lower Farm, Farnborough commencing Michaelmas 1786, dated 11 April 1786
3. Reading Reference Library B/TU/Sav 1928. William Savory's commonplace book. p246
4. Savory, op. cit., p248

*Farnborough Church tower. The box grave lower right memorialises James Kingham.*



## **THE SOCIETY'S ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST is open and free to all members**

To join just send an email message with your name, membership number, postcode and a brief request to be subscribed, to  
**<listowner@berksfhs.org.uk>**

# Alice Englefield of Hurst

***Not my grandma after all,  
says Bob Britnell (4268),  
but maybe she's yours?***

Twelve years ago when I started family history research I found the marriage of my grandfather, Abel Britnell, to Alice Englefield (or Inglefield) on 24 Oct 1897 at Hounslow Heath without any trouble. This told me that Alice's father was named George and that he was deceased.

Of course, at that time the 1901 census was not yet available, and the only easily searchable census was the 1881 LDS production, available on disk, but not online. A search of that revealed only one Alice Englefield of the right age: four-year-old Alice B Englefield living at Dunt Lane, Hurst with 58-year-old George and 51-year-old Latitia, all three born in Hurst, Berkshire, as were 21-year-old Harriett, 13-year-old Sarah, 11-year-old Mary, nine-year-old Fred and one-month-old Herman.

Research through the IGI, the GRO, the censuses, the BRO and the library of the Institute of Historical and Genealogical Studies in Canterbury revealed that Alice B was Alice Barker Englefield, illegitimate child of Harriett, as indeed was Herman. George and Latitia were her grandparents, not parents; they had married in Hurst in 1861 when George was a boarder with Latitia's parents Daniel and Eliza Simpson. Harriett, born in 1860 has no father's entry on her birth certificate, which records her full name as Harriett Louisa Englefield daughter of Latitia Simpson. Working back through certificates and censuses, with the odd dip into the IGI, I found that George Englefield came from Stratfield Saye in Hampshire. George's father Edward married Sarah Wilton in 1823 in

Bramley, Hampshire, and George was baptised in 1827 in Stratfield Saye.

The Simpsons came from Tadley and Kingsclere also in Hampshire. Daniel Simpson married Eliza Appleton in 1824 in Tadley, and he was baptised in 1789, son of Isaac and Dinah Simpson of Tadley.

All in all I was pretty pleased with what I had found out, and at having got back that far without too much difficulty. In the meantime the 1901 census came out, but I thought no more of them, being off chasing other lines of the family. My reality check came when a BerksFHS member engaged in transcribing parish registers, knowing of my interest in Englefields, let me know that he had found the marriage of Alice B Englefield in Hurst in 1896.

How could this be if she married my grandfather in 1897 in Middlesex? With censuses steadily coming online I did some more checks. My grandmother Alice says in 1901 that she was born in Middlesex, but of course this could be wrong, except that there is an Alice Englefield of just the right age in just the right part of Middlesex on the 1891 census.

Ah well, time to start again in the search for grandma Alice née Englefield. In the meantime is anyone out there searching for the Englefields of Hurst? Because I have quite a lot of information about them, and I need someone to pass it on to.





# Finding your grandparents' house

**John Gurnett finds fascinating detail in land ownership records of the early twentieth century**

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries inequality of land ownership in the United Kingdom was a major political issue. After the 1861 census it was widely claimed that fewer than 150 men owned half of the land of England. In 1876 it seemed there was a massive concentration of ownership, with 7,000 people, most of them titled, owning four-fifths of the country. Even in today's meritocracy, owner-occupied farms and home-owners account for 47 per cent of the land, while aristocratic ownership stands at 32 per cent.

In an attempt to correct this the Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George, introduced as part of his now famous People's Budget of 1909-11 what was called the New Domesday Book of land ownership and values. It took two years to push the Finance Act through Parliament against vociferous opposition from predominantly Conservative landowners. Winston Churchill, one of the defenders of the Act, said:

*"Roads are made ... services are improved ... water is brought from reservoirs one hundred miles off in the mountains and all the while the landlord sits still ... To not one of these improvements does the landlord monopolist contribute and yet by every one of them the value of his land is enhanced."*

Even today, after the award of planning permission the value of a piece of land may increase from £5,000 to £1,000,000, and even if the resulting gain were taxed at 90 per cent, the developer would be better off by almost £100,000.

The essential provision of the Act was to tax any increase in land value brought about not by investment by the owner, but from government and public improvements such as

transport, roads, railways, reservoirs and electricity. Although farming land was exempt, so too were house-owners with fewer than 50 acres. However, the valuation process included all property and land, whether or not it was exempt, at the time or later.

## MAPS

The valuation process began with the issue of Form 4-Land, which required landowners to name the occupier, and give a description of the property and its rateable value.

*example of Form 4-Land*

Despite delays caused by the First World War, the valuation was complete by the autumn of 1915. The Increment Value Duty (based at 20 per cent) was the difference between two valuations. Each property was given an assessment number (also known as an hereditament number) and these numbers were marked on Ordnance Survey maps – usually 25 inches to the mile, although in urban areas a much larger scale was used, so even individual terraced properties may be identified. Two plans were used, the working



plans, used at the time of initial valuation, and another set after it was completed. Many of the working plans were subsequently passed to County Record Offices (CROs) and those for Berkshire are in the Berkshire Record Office (BRO). The record plans are held at the National Archives (TNA).

## DOMESDAY BOOKS

Copies of the Income Tax Schedule A registers held by the Inland Revenue were made available to district valuers. These were bound in volumes known as Domesday Books (Form 20-Land). Some of these books are held by TNA, but most were passed on to CROs. Microfilm copies of them are held on open shelves at the BRO.



*example of 1:1250 plan, in this instance part of St Albans*

The property boundaries are shown on the maps by a coloured border or an overall colour. The assessment number on the map acts as an index to the Domesday Books, and the Field Books. Although some useful information can be found in the Domesday Books, far more detail about the buildings, the owners and those living in the property can be found in the Field Books (IR 58) and, after identifying the assessment numbers, the Field Books should be your next port of call.

But let us begin with the records held at the BRO. The maps (P/DVO3) give the assessment numbers of properties, and from these we can find our way to the Domesday Books on microfiche. The kind of information we are likely to find is the owner and occupier of a property. The Greyhound at Tidmarsh, for example, was occupied by James Pullen, but owned by Blandy and Hawkins of Reading. Mr Hawkins also owned the manor, farm and cottage garden (with shooting rights, in all 222 acres).

The Domesday Books (Form 20-Land) at the BRO and other CROs are more sparse than the Field Books, but they do give sufficient information to start your journey into land ownership at this time. However, there are one or two problems (but not insurmountable) in identifying the assessment numbers in the Field Books. There is no alphabetical index to street names, nor indeed to the places in the Field Books, but using a modern small-scale map or gazetteer, together with the 25-inch maps in the CROs or TNA, it is possible to limit the search. The specialist staff will guide you through the difficulties of finding the correct map. In cities and towns, like Reading and Newbury, each house or apartment is given its own assessment number.

## FIELD BOOKS

The Field Books at TNA contain information obtained by the district valuers, in numerical order, usually with four pages to each number. The page begins with the Poor Rate Assessment, occupiers, landowners with their address, description of the property, and area covered. Additional information may include the date of erection, number of rooms, with the state of repair and sometimes a sketch plan. Four valuations are given for each property: gross value, full site value, total value and assessable site value. For family and local historians this information is of immense value, even though the Act was repealed by the Tory government in 1920.

979	Reference No.	Map No. <i>1/11</i>
Situation	<i>Bateman</i>	
Description	<i>House, Bldgs 7 per</i>	
Extent	<i>6. 3. 5.</i>	
Gross Value	Land & Buildings	Reasonable Value
	<i>110</i>	Land & Buildings <i>13 10 0</i>
Gross Annual Value, Schedule A, &		
Occupier	<i>Rudyard Kipling</i>	
Owner	<i>Bateman, Rowland H.</i>	
Interest of Owner	<i>Freehold</i>	
Superior Interests		
Subordinate Interests		
Occupier's tenancy, Term	from	
How determinable		
Actual (or Estimated) Rent, &		
Any other Consideration paid		
Outgoings—Land Tax, & S.P.O.	paid by <i>Occupier</i>	
Tithe, & L. & A.	paid by	
Other Outgoings		
Who pays (A) Rates and Taxes (B) Insurance	<i>Occupier</i>	
Who is liable for repairs		
Fixed Charges, Easements, Common Rights and Restrictions		
Former Sales, Date	<i>Reclaimed by 1902 part Feb 1908</i>	
Interest		
Consideration		
Subsequent Expenditure	<i>1/2 per</i>	
Owner's Estimate, Gross Value		
" Full Site Value		
Total Value		

Records of the valuations for Scotland are held at the National Archives in Edinburgh; those for Northern Ireland are in the Public Record Office, Belfast.

**Further reading:**

Geraldine Beech and Rose Mitchell *Maps for family and local history: records of the Tithe, Valuation Office and National Farm Surveys of England and Wales 1836 - 1943* (2006)

*Field Book entry for Rudyard Kipling's house, Bateman's*

*The Lloyd George land ownership survey of 1910-1911 for Oxfordshire is being digitised in its entirety, and should be available on the internet in 2010. Look on <[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oro](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oro)> for the latest news.*

## Buried at Sandhurst

### Dominic Harper (5362) stumbled upon a sad little story in the registers of the Royal Military College

It was a busy day for the Donaldson family. James completed his will, he died, and his death was registered, all on the same day, 7 July 1902. James was a sergeant-major, RE, an instructor at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He was buried on 10 July in the military cemetery within the grounds of the college.

The information on his tombstone included medal details. From a library medal book I was able to determine with which company of Royal Engineers he had served. When James served in Sudan he was a sergeant in the 24th Company. He was at Suakim, and was involved in the action at Tofrek in 1885, a long forgotten battle. It was for their action at Tofrek that the Berkshire Regiment was granted the title Royal.

The burial register for Sandhurst is now held at The National Archives, Kew, WO 156/450. This volume also contains entries for baptisms in the college chapel. Perhaps the saddest burial entry is that for Elizabeth Skeffington, age two years and three months, buried 12 July 1847. (Page 11). The entry has the note:

*Only surviving child of Private S. She died in consequence of eating --- --- having got into the garden when her father was engaged about her sister's funeral.*

The previous entry was for Sarah Anne Skeffington, age three months, buried 3 July.

*Previously published in Root and Branch, journal of the West Surrey History Society, December 2009.*

# Write now



## COLD ASH

from **Gillian Entwistle**

Above is a photo of a painting my mum inherited from her mum. She knows nothing about it but she thinks it's in Cold Ash. She would love to know what history it has, if any, where it was, and who lived there. The painting itself must be at least 50 years old.

My mum was put into the Waifs and Strays children's home (as it was called then) at Cold Ash. She was taken in by Mr and Mrs Kaile in 1925, when she was a baby, and she wonders if the house had anything to do with a Miss Layley who worked there at the time. That is all the information we have on this picture. I'd love to hear from anyone who could add any more.

from **Sue Wood**

I am a member of Hungerford Historical Association, and a keen local and family historian. I have recently launched a website on the Berkshire coroners' inquisition records: <http://sites.google.com/site/berkshirecoronersinquisitions>. My research (for a book I am hoping to publish later this year) mostly relates to the Newbury division, which covered south-west Berkshire. I have listed all the names of the people who have appeared in the cases I have studied so far, including the deceased, foremen, jurors and witnesses. Apart from any personal connection the inquisitions make fascinating reading and give a real flavour of life in nineteenth and early twentieth-century Berkshire.

*NB Berks FHS Books sells the Berkshire Coroners' Index 1628 - 1926 on CD – see mail order booklist, centre pages.*

## Your letters, your queries, your news

*Please send your letters and articles to the editor, either by email to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk> or by post to The Editor, Berkshire Family Historian, The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW. Letters may have to be edited, and it will be assumed, unless you ask otherwise, that you are happy to have your postal and email address published for replies.*

## TOLLERVEY

from **Peggy Tollervey**

Since I retired I have been researching the Tollervey family, and as I have no children I am looking for someone to pass my research on to.

The first Tollervey in Reading was Horatio Nelson, who moved there from London in 1850. Before that they lived in Portsmouth. I have BMD certificates, also wills, censuses and christenings and lots of bits from Portsmouth library. I would be pleased to pass it on to a younger person.

**CORONERS' RECORDS**

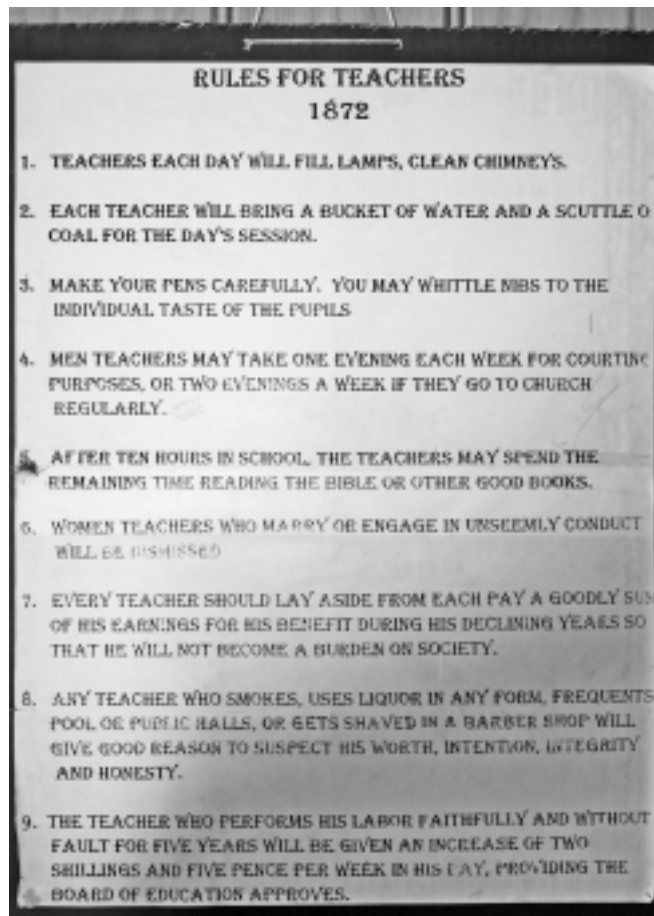
## WOMEN TEACHERS

from **Michael Bailey** (5648)

I read with interest the article in the December edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, "What did Grandma's generation do with their education?" Two aspects caught my attention.

On the 1901 census my paternal grandmother is shown as a pupil teacher. Dorothy Jones' article gives me some pointers about how to progress this aspect of my own research.

The second aspect I found interesting was the reference to a marriage bar being imposed on women teachers. At the end of November I returned from a visit to Australia, during which we visited the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village at Warnambool, Victoria. This living museum includes a reproduction of an old school-room. Hanging in that room was a set of rules for teachers dated 1872 and reproduced opposite. Rule number 6 clearly states, "Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed." It is quite telling that marriage and unseemly conduct should be dealt with in the one rule and attract the same penalty! There is a marked contrast with Rule 4 which states that "Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly."



## LONGLAND

From **Alan East** (772)

I am seeking the baptism and the parents of Eleanor Longland. On 12 June 1780 she married John Charlton otp at All Saints Church, Swallowfield. She was buried in the same churchyard on 10 November 1839 aged 80, so she was born c1759.

On an early IGI we found the following baptisms in Wokingham:

2 Aug 1752, Edward s/o Edward and Hester Longland

27 Sep 1754, Hester d/o Edmund and Hester Longland

8 Jul 1757, Ann d/o Edmund and Hester Longland.

Longland is a fairly rare name in this area, so Eleanor could be a younger sibling of these three.

Can anyone help, please, or suggest where else to look?



# Bookends

Jean Debney

Prices quoted are for:

a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre

b) mail order purchase within UK, including p&p by second class post unless stated otherwise

c) mail order purchase from overseas, including p&p airmail

## FAMILY HISTORY IN BERKSHIRE

The following new Eureka Partnership A5 booklets of indexed transcripts of little-used Berkshire records by Eileen and John Bartlett and Angela Hillier, each with a brief history and explanation of the records used, are a fantastic source of information for those fortunate enough to have ancestors in those places.

### ***The parish of Binfield 1801 census***

(2009) 28pp

Bookshop £3.50, mail order £4.35 UK, £5.30 airmail

Binfield is an extensive parish NE of Wokingham, in the Easthamstead registration district. Created by the incumbent, this rare survival includes notes about the families, and is thought to have been made to help him compile the numerical lists required for the official census. The original list was made in March 1801 and updated in November, with some later remarks. There is also a map compiled from the tithe map c1856 and the 1817 enclosure award.

### ***Reading Wesleyan Methodist Circuit Historic Roll 1899 – 1904***

(2010) 28pp

Bookshop, £3.50, mail order £4.35 UK, £5.30 airmail

Fifty bound volumes containing the names and sometimes addresses of over a million people who donated a guinea to the Wesleyan Methodist Guinea Fund in memory of their founder, John Wesley (1703-91), are kept at

Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, London. The money was used to purchase the land and build Central Hall, as well as to further the cause at home and overseas. Some additional donations were made in memory of deceased loved ones or those who had moved away. This transcript relates to the Reading Circuit only. See also *Basic facts about the Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll* by Richard Ratcliffe (2005).

### ***Twyford and Woodley Congregational Churches***

(2009) 32pp

Bookshop £2.50, mail order £3.35 UK, £4.30 airmail

Twyford Congregational Church baptisms 1812-46, 1861-88 and 1898 - 1924, marriages 1918-51, deaths/burials 1912-49 and lists of members 1809-45, 1860-66, 1869 - 1948  
Woodley Congregational Chapel baptisms 1876 - 1949, burials 1858 - 1905 and a list of members 1913-35.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AIDS

### ***Beginners guide to your ancestors' lives***

Nick Barratt (Pen and Sword, 2010)

160mm x 240mm, hardback (with dust cover), 282pp

ISBN 184884056 X

Bookshop £19.99, mail order £22.74 UK, £28.40 airmail

Nick Barratt is well known on the family history scene in relation to the *Who Do You Think You Are?* television series and the

annual family history fairs in London. His subject approach here differs from most how-to-do-it books, and includes looking at the social history of each generation, as well as researching the records, and telling you how to organise your findings using the latest technology and online resources. It is illustrated with photographs, computer screen shots and documents. This is an excellent book for both the beginner (as it guides you through your early research) to the more experienced family historian who wishes to improve research technique, organising and presentation skills.

***Your life, your story: writing your life story for family and friends***

Cherry Gilchrist (Piatkus, 2010)  
152mm x 234mm, flexiback, 208pp  
Bookshop £11.99, mail order £13.94 UK,  
£16.94 airmail

This book is described as a practical and creative guide to setting down your own personal narrative, and it takes you through the process. It is full of useful techniques for writing your story, or indeed that of anyone or anything else.

**FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AIDS**

***National burial index for England and Wales***

3rd ed CD (Federation of Family History Societies, 2010)  
ISBN 978 0 9564721 0 6  
Bookshop £30, mail order £30.85 UK, £32.65 airmail

This new edition has been a long time coming, but it is worth the wait because it contains over 18.4 million burial records from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries – an increase of about 38 per cent over the second edition of 2004, and it's also cheaper! A must-have for all family historians.

***Essential maps for family historians***

Charles Masters (Countryside Books, 2009)  
B5, flexiback, 127pp  
ISBN 978 1 84674 098 5  
Bookshop £12.99, mail order £14.10 UK £18.70 airmail

This well-illustrated book of maps and plans has chapters about county maps, estate surveys, enclosure maps and awards, town maps, tithe maps and awards, the Valuation Office Survey (1910-15) and the National Farm Survey (1941-43).

The maps, which are coloured, each have a detailed explanation of their title and date, and their source. The main text has marginal sub-headings relating to the contents of that section plus text boxes to provide additional gems of information. Among the many listed in the acknowledgements is our own editor, Penny Stokes, for her expertise re Hamstead Marshall.

Maps, when used with civil registration records or census returns, can add a new dimension to your research and to the area your ancestor lived and worked in. This makes it a recommended book for all family historians.

***My ancestor was ... in service***

Pamela Horn (Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd, 2009)  
A5, flexiback, 144pp  
ISBN 978 1 907199 01 1  
Bookshop £8.50, mail order £9.65 UK, £12.75 airmail

The author has published several important books about servants from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, and this is her latest publication, full of useful information about their lives as well as where and how to discover further information about them. The chapters discuss keeping servants, the daily rounds of male and female servants, hiring, firing and moving on and their social relationships with each other and, sometimes, with the law. The

book ends with suggested reading, references and the all-important index.

Most of us will have at least one ancestor who was a servant, or who lived in a house with at least one servant, and this research aid is therefore an essential research guide for your bookshelf.

### ***My ancestor was a ... railway worker***

Frank Hardy (Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd, 2009)  
A5, flexiback, 110pp  
ISBN 978 1 907199 02 8  
Bookshop £7.50, mail order £8.35, UK £11.00 airmail

The author, a former professional railway civil engineer and currently an enthusiastic family historian, is well qualified in his subject and has produced an excellent publication. The period covered is from the start of the railways in 1825 to 1948. The book begins with a brief history of their creation, subsequent maintenance and operation and, of course, staff records. Each chapter includes sources and where to find them. There are also some case studies, a list of towns served by more than one railway company, a glossary of terms, bibliography and an index which complete this important research guide. See also *Was your grandfather a railwayman?* for a complete list of staff records.

## **FAMILY HISTORY IN SCOTLAND**

### ***Researching family history in Scotland***

Chris Paton (Family History Partnership, 2010)  
A5, flexiback, 120pp  
ISBN 978 1 906280 22 2  
Bookshop £7.85, mail order £8.66 UK, £11.81 airmail

This new book approaches family history research with plenty of internet sites and useful sources. The author, a former BBC Scotland

TV producer of history programmes, is a leading light in the Scottish family history world. There are plenty of illustrations and tips to help you find your family, together with appendices listing regional archives, family history societies in Scotland and the index to help you find that all important topic you need to know more about. Recommended.

## **BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY**

### ***Berkshire murders***

John van der Kiste (True Crime History, The History Press, 2010)  
168mm x 247mm, flexiback, 159pp  
ISBN 978 0 7509 5129 6  
Bookshop £14.99, mail order £ 16.94 UK, £20.90 airmail

Twenty-four murders are described in this well-produced book, all of which occurred in the towns and villages of Old Berkshire between 1676 and 1948. Arranged in chronological order, the book is illustrated with photographs, drawings and other images, making the overall contents of this publication satisfying to anyone with an interest in this somewhat gruesome subject.

### ***Blewbury remembers: reminiscences of the war years***

Mark Palthorpe and Karen Brooks (Blewbury Local History and Blewbury Women's Institute, undated but probably 2009/10)  
A5, yellow flexiback (patriotically tied with a red, white and blue ribbon), 32pp  
Bookshop £3.00, £3.55 UK, £4.85 airmail

This booklet is the first volume (with promise of another) with biographical details and some photographs of Blewbury men who died in the Second World War. It was compiled using records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, personal memories and other research. There are memories of the Land Army and Italian POWs who worked in the

fields, life on the Home Front and evacuees who came to the village.

***Aspects of the history of Hungerford***

Norman Hidden (Hungerford Historical Association, 2009)  
175mm x 240mm, flexiback, 318pp  
Bookshop £8.95, £10.90 UK, £13.90 airmail

Norman Hidden was a family and local historian who spent 30 years carrying out original research into the early history of Hungerford. This publication reproduces some of his extensive research papers. It is, therefore, full of details of great use to anyone lucky enough to have ancestors from the town and surroundings of Hungerford.

**OXFORD LOCAL HISTORY**

***Henley-on-Thames: town, trade and river***

Simon Townley (Phillimore, 2009)  
170mm x 247mm , flexiback, 198pp  
ISBN 978 1 86077 554 3  
Bookshop £14.99, £ 16.60 UK, £23.00 airmail

This is a comprehensive and fascinating history of the relationship of Henley, the river Thames and the annual regatta, all of which influenced the town and its growth. The author recommends that you take this book with you when you visit the town to help you understand many of the things you see there. Copiously illustrated with black and white and coloured photographs, maps, documents and other images, it also has marginal notes to enable you to find items of interest. And, of course, there are sections on sources, further reading and a detailed index.

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# Members' interests

*Compiled by Bob Plumridge*  
<[bob@theplumridges.com](mailto:bob@theplumridges.com)>





# Research Centre *services*

**Berks FHS Research Centre**  
**Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ**  
**0118 950 9553 <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>**

The Research Centre is 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading, next door to the Berkshire Record Office and in the same building as the Reading Register Office, with ample free parking. Follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office.

The Research Centre occupies two floors:

- books, films and microfiche are on the first floor in the library
- administration, signing-in desk and the computer suite are on the ground floor.

The centre is open to members and the public as follows:

**Tuesdays**

**10.00 - 16.00, 19.00 - 21.30**

**Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**10.00 - 16.00**

**2nd and 4th Sundays each month**

**11.00 - 16.00**

**(excluding bank holiday weekends)**

All staff are volunteers who will help researchers in the centre, but they do not carry out research for visitors.

Find My Past and Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed in the computer suite for a charge of £1 per hour each. Find My Past offers census records for England and Wales (1841 to 1901), GRO indexes, millions of English and Welsh parish records (from indexes or transcriptions), outward passenger lists (1890 - 1960), and military records. The centre's version of Ancestry provides datasets from North America and Europe, as well as UK material, including an

increasing number of Greater London parish records (not Westminster). Note that neither of these society subscriptions gives access to 1911 census data.

## Berkshire Name Suite (BNS)

This is the master index on the computers, comprising the following databases:

- **Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871** (both complete but mainly unchecked) and **1881**

- **Berkshire Marriage Index**

Over 95,000 entries from pre-1837

Berkshire parish registers. Early entries give only dates and names of groom and bride; later entries include parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.

- **Berkshire Burial Index (BBI)**

Over 670,000 entries in 8th edition. More than 80 per cent show all data available.

The rest show (as available) name, age, relationship, occupation and title plus indication if there is further information such as date, place or cause of death in the original record.

- **Berkshire Strays Index**

20,500 Berkshire people recorded in events outside the county. No further census (1841 - 1901) or WWI details are being added to this index.

- **Berkshire Miscellaneous Index**

100,279 disparate records extracted and submitted by individuals.

### Other electronic databases

- **LDS Vital Records Indexes** for the UK and some other parts of Europe
- **Census returns of 1861, 1871, 1891** for some counties including the London 1891 census
- **Census return for 1881 for all UK** including the Channel Isles and the Royal Navy
- **National Burial Index** 3rd edition
- **Local trade directories** from 1830 onwards

### Library

The library holds nearly 8,000 items in, of which about 20 per cent are Berkshire related; the rest comprise UK, Irish and international material. See <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue)>.

Major items and series include:

- **International Genealogical Index** on fiche (1988) for Great Britain
- **1851 census return indexes** for most English and Welsh counties
- CDs of **Berkshire MIs, overseers' papers, militia lists, directories**
- **Local history and genealogy** books for other UK counties, Scotland, Ireland and some other countries
- **General reference** section of books on FH methodology, poor law, surnames, photographs, local history, education, poll books, military
- **National Index of Parish Registers**
- **Directories:** biographical, trade, professional, military, clerical and school
- Published **family histories/pedigrees** and a large number of donated hand-written documents
- **Berkshire Family Historian** from 1975 to the present day
- **Berkshire census returns** for 1851 to 1881 on film
- **Exchange Magazine Archive** five- to seven-year files of other family history societies' journals.

Published Berkshire parish register transcripts are listed on the website. These are mainly for pre-1974 Berkshire and include north Berkshire (now Oxfordshire).

### Research Centre tours

Tours must be pre-booked, and they are limited to 10 people. They last for about two hours, and allow a short time to browse in the library, to buy publications and to use the computers for family history research. They show what research and finding aids are available (which are not restricted to only those with Berkshire connections). For further details please contact 0118 978 4781 or <[researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk)>.

### Search options

- Do your own search at the Research Centre and make printouts.
- Visit a Berks FHS stand at a family history fair.
- Request a postal search.

### Postal searches and charges

The cost for searching one surname in the whole **Berkshire Name Suite** is currently £5. For searching one surname in one database only (from those listed on page 34) the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a printout of up to 25 lines of results.

A search of **indexes to the 1851 census for other counties**, with print-out of results, may range from £3 to £10 according to media. Please check in the online library catalogue first to ensure that the county you want is stocked.

Please send your search request to the address on page 34 giving:

- your membership number
- email/telephone details
- a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough for several A4 sheets (2 x IRCs if writing from overseas)
- a bank draft or sterling cheque drawn on a London clearing bank

and mark your envelope BNS or OCCI, depending upon the database you wish to search.



# Gleanings from exchange magazines

Copies of these articles (paper or electronic) can be supplied on request. For paper send your request with a SAE (min 11 x 22 cm) and two loose stamps to Exchange Magazines, Berks FHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. For electronic copies apply to <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>. Please supply both the issue date of the *Historian* and full details of the title and source of the Gleaning. Copyright law requires that photocopies of articles in journals may only be made for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research. Only one article from any one issue can be supplied. All digital copies must be printed off and deleted.

**Doreen and Tony Farmer**

## **Researching Gypsies and travellers**

Some advice to help with research

(15) *Gloucestershire FHS* no 122 Sep 2009

## **The parish of Foscott (Foxcote, Foxcott)**

Analysis of surnames and population figures based on census results, with photo of Foscott church

(4) *Buckinghamshire FHS* vol 33/3 Sep 2009

## **World wide web**

Information on some new records online

(34) *West Middlesex FHS* vol 27/4 Dec 2009

## **Parish registers of churches lost after the Great Fire of London**

With survey of registers showing what is held and where

(76) *Genealogists' Magazine* vol 29/12 Dec 2009

## **Introduction to Scotland's People**

Recommending the website, with some tips and traps

(65) *Australian Family Tree* Nov 2009

## **How to obtain military service records**

A few tips about where to look to get you started

(50a) *Doncaster Ancestor* vol 19/4 Winter 2009

## **Old saws**

Origins of well known old sayings

(43) *Suffolk Roots* vol 35/2 Sep 2009

## **St Peter and St Paul, Eye**

Profile of two churches with photos

(43) *Suffolk Roots* vol 35/2 Sep 2009

## **The Poor Law and people**

Legislative changes, and what they mean for the family historian; includes sources of further information

(38) *Nottinghamshire FHS* vol 12/11 July 2009

## **The National Co-operative Archive**

On the co-operative movement, including type of records and photos that survive

(25) *Manchester Genealogist* vol 46/1 Jan 2010

## **A vaccination battle**

A tale of the 1903 anti-vaccination battle in Kettering

(36) *Northamptonshire FHS* vol 32/3 Feb 2010

## **Website focus**

The Geograph British Isles project and its implications for family historians

(16) *Hampshire Family Historian* Dec 2009

## **The making of Who Do You Think You Are?**

Answers to popular questions about the series

(44) *Felixstowe FHS* vol 25/1 March 2010